

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A composition comprising an active agent selected from the group consisting of hydrophobic active agents and hydrophilic active agents and a combination thereof and a polymeric emulsifier.

2. A composition according to claim 1 wherein said composition further comprises a hydrophobically-modified hydrophilic polymer.

4. A composition according to claim 1 wherein said composition further comprises a sugar.

5. A composition according to claim 2 wherein said hydrophobic and hydrophilic active agents are selected from the group consisting of one or more of the following: antimicrobials, allergy inhibitors, anti-acne, analgesics, antitussives, antipruritics, anesthetics, antihistamines, anti-infective agents, inflammation inhibitors, anti-emetics, anticholinergics, vasoconstrictors, vasodilators, wound healing promoters., vitamin B complex; thiamine, nicotinic acid, biotin, pantothenic acid, choline, riboflavin, vitamin B6, vitamin B12, pyridoxine, inositol, carnitine; vitamins A, C, D, E, K and their derivatives, pro-vitamins, amino acids and their derivatives, herbal extracts, retinoids, flavonoids, anti-oxidants, anti-inflammatory, skin conditioners, skin lighteners, chelating agents, cell turnover enhancers, coloring agents, fragrances, pigments and sunscreens.

6. A composition according to claim 2 wherein said active agent is hydrophobic.

7. A composition according to claim 6 wherein said composition further comprises a hydrophobically-modified hydrophilic polymer.

8. A composition according to claim 7 wherein said hydrophobically-modified hydrophilic polymer is a hydrophobically modified acrylate.

9. A composition according to claim 8 wherein said hydrophobically modified acrylate is acrylates/C10-30 alkyl acrylate cross-polymer.

10. A composition according to claim 6 wherein said composition further comprises a polyoxyalkylene alcohol.

11. A composition according to claim 10 wherein said polyoxyalkylene alcohol is a polyoxyethylene alcohol.

12. A composition according to claim 11 wherein said polyoxyethylene alcohol is a steareth10-20.

13. A composition according to claim 6 wherein said composition further comprises a sugar.

14. A composition according to claim 13 wherein said sugar is selected from the group consisting of: ascorbic acid-2-glucoside, oligosaccharides such as lactose and melibiose and combinations thereof.

15. A composition according to claim 14 wherein said sugar is ascorbic acid-2-glucoside.

16. A composition according to claim 2 wherein said active agent is hydrophilic.

17. A composition according to claim 16 wherein said active agent is ascorbic acid-2-glucoside.

18. A composition according to claim 16 wherein said composition further comprises a hydrophobically-modified hydrophilic polymer.

19. A composition according to claim 18 wherein said hydrophobically-modified hydrophilic polymer is a hydrophobically modified acrylate.

20. A composition according to claim 19 wherein said hydrophobically modified acrylate is acrylates/C10-30 alkyl acrylate cross-polymer.

21. A composition according to claim 16 wherein said composition further comprises a polyoxyalkylene alcohol.

22. A composition according to claim 21 wherein said polyoxyalkylene alcohol is a polyoxyethylene alcohol.

23. A composition according to claim 22 wherein said polyoxyethylene alcohol is a steareth10-20.

24. A method of mitigating retinoid irritation of human skin in a composition containing a retinoid comprising applying to said skin a sugar selected from the group

consisting of: ascorbic acid-2-glucoside, oligosaccharides such as lactose and melibiose and combinations thereof.

25. A method according to claim 24 wherein said sugar is ascorbic acid-2-glucoside.

26. A method of controlling the administration of hydrophilic or hydrophobic active ingredients using a composition of Claim 1.

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